

Approved

Senior tax credit task force

Minutes of the January 10, 2007, meeting

The senior tax credit task force met on January 10, 2007, in the Tyson Room, Howard Building, 3430 Courthouse Dr., Ellicott City, MD. at 2 pm.

The following members of the task force were in attendance: Ron Weinstein, Sharon Greisz, Sue Brown, Ted Meyerson, Randy Nixon, Janice Bloodworth, Sara Hamer, Sherman Howell, Frank Chase, Sue Buswell, Pat Dornan, Peter Rogers, Colin Burke, and Joel Yesley.

The following staff members were in attendance, Jeff Meyers, Diana Coll, and Leo Oken. Lynn Robeson from the Office of Law and Jeff Bronow from the Department of Planning and Zoning also attended.

Reporters from the Sun, the View, the Howard County Times, and the Examiner were present as were several County employees from the Office on Aging, the Budget Office, and the County Council office. Jack Knox from the AARP observed as did approximately 5 people from the public. Councilman Ball stopped in to thank the members for their service.

Mr. Meyers called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. The members of the task force and staff introduced themselves. The task force elected Ted Meyerson chairman.

Staff provided a folder of documents including a copy of the bill that enacted the senior tax credit, the resolution that created the task force, the state bill that authorized the County to enact the credit and the state fiscal analysis, and several documents about similar credits in other jurisdictions.

The task force discussed the senior tax credit, commenting on its purpose and affordability. Mr. Meyerson indicated that agreeing on the purpose of the tax credit is a prerequisite for crafting the credit. Ron Weinstein and Sharon Greisz reported on how the cost estimates of the credit were calculated and how the credit compares to other credits and programs that may be available to senior property taxpayers.

Mr. Yesley indicated that the task force should meet in the evening for the convenience of working members of the public who might wish to attend. Mr. Dornan and Mr. Chase suggested that the task force meet early in the morning. By show of hands, the task force voted that the next several meetings would be at 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There seemed to be a consensus that the task force meeting or meetings for taking public comments should be held in the evening and later in the process.

The task force determined that more information was needed about demographics and finances. Mr. Meyerson indicated that specific questions should be sent to Mr. Meyers who will compile them for County staff to address. Mr. Bronow offered to address the demographic questions at the next meeting.

Mr. Meyerson adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Meyers

approved by task force on January 16, 2007